

From the Executive Director

Instead of the summary format usually found in this portion of the annual report of the Washington State County Road Administration Board, I would like to use this space to speak to the departure from this agency of two of our staff members: Christina Mudgett, P.E., Intergovernmental Policy Manager; and Dave Whitcher, P.E., Inventory Manager/Pavement Management Systems Engineer. Both these individuals served with distinction in our Engineering Services Division.

Ms. Mudgett came to CRAB from Snohomish County and served as Engineering Services Manager before assuming the duties of Intergovernmental Policy Manager, the title she held until leaving this agency to accept a position with the City of Olympia. She was known around the state, and indeed the nation, for her expertise in program analysis. It is rare to find analytical prowess, a talent for futuring, and warm good humor in one person, yet she brought that rarity to every task and situation. The updating and restructuring of the County Engineers' and Public Works Directors' Manual was largely her undertaking, and she provided the lion's share of the agency's contributive effort in the Certified Public Officials training program.

Mr. Dave Whitcher has long been the individual responsible for maintenance of the County Road Log, as well as the watchdog over the pavement management systems of all thirty-nine counties, but that is only the beginning of what he has actually done during his tenure at CRAB. He also calculated the counties' share of the fuel tax distribution; he managed the annual update of the County Freight and Goods System; and while doing that was able to amalgamate, analyze, and present county related road data to WSDOT, FHWA, and to the legislature with an accuracy which can only be described as uncanny. Dave's ability was matched only by his willingness to place himself at the service of the counties, and both will be missed by them and by CRAB.

The Counties' transportation system is better, safer, and more efficient because of the talents, expertise, and old-fashioned hard work which Mr. Whitcher and Ms. Mudgett tendered to the people of the state of Washington in the highest tradition of public service. Those of us who remain at CRAB extend to each of them our very best wishes.